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The President's Message.

(Continued from last week.)

THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

The report of the Secretary of War at
the close of the operations of the War
Department.

The aggregate strength of the military
force on the 30th of September last, was
55,315.

The total estimate for military appropria-
tions in 1897, including the deficiency in
1896, was \$124,707, including the deficiency
in 1896, was \$124,707.

The report of the military establishment,
as well as the numbers of the army, are
now three times as great as they have
ever been in time of peace, while the
discretionary power is vested in the Executive
to add millions to this expenditure by an
increase of the army to the maximum
strength allowed by law.

INDIAN AFFAIRS.

The menacing attitude of some of the
tribes of Indians, inhabiting the
district of country between the Arkansas
and Platte rivers, and portions of Dakota
Territory, required the presence of a large
military force in that region.

Investigation by real or imaginary grievances, the In-
dians have occasionally committed acts of
barbarous violence upon emigrants and
our frontier settlements, but a general In-
dian war has been providentially averted.

The Commissioners, under the act of
July 20, 1867, were invested with full
power to adjust existing difficulties, nego-
tiate treaties with disaffected bands, and
select for their reservations remote from
travelled routes between the Mississippi
and Pacific.

They entered without delay upon the
execution of their trust, but have not yet
made any official report of their proceed-
ings.

It is of vital importance that our dis-
tinct territories should be exempt from In-
dian outbreaks, and that the construction
of the Pacific Railroad, an object of na-
tional importance, should not be inter-
rupted by hostile tribes.

These objects as well as the material
interests and moral and intellectual im-
provement of the Indians, can be most
effectually secured by concentrating their
upon portions of country set apart for
their exclusive use, and located at points
remote from our highways and encroach-
ing white settlements.

PACIFIC RAILROAD.

Since the commencement of the second
session of the Thirty-ninth Congress, five
hundred and ten miles of road have been
constructed on the main line and branches
of the Pacific Railway. The line from
Omaha is rapidly approaching the eastern
base of the Rocky Mountains, while the
construction of the last section of constructed
road in California, accepted by Govern-
ment, on the 24th of October last, was
but eleven miles distant from the summit
of the Sierra Nevada. The remarkable
energy evinced by the companies offers
the strongest assurance that the comple-
tion of the road from Sacramento to Oma-
ha will not be long deferred.

PUBLIC LANDS.

During the last fiscal year 7,011,114
acres of public land were disposed of, and
the cash receipts from sales and fees ex-
ceeded by one half million dollars the
sum realized from those sources during the
preceding year.

PENSIONS.

The amount paid to pensioners, includ-
ing the expenses of disbursements, was
\$18,619,956; and 36,482 names were ad-
ded to the rolls. The entire number of
pensioners on the 30th of June last was
155,474.

PATENTS.

Eleven thousand six hundred and fifty-
five patents and designs were issued dur-
ing the year ending September 30, 1897,
and at that date the balance in the Treas-
ury to the credit of the Patent Fund was
\$286,007.

THE NAVY.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy
states that we have secured a more effec-
tively and judiciously employed under ef-
ficient and able commanders in protecting
the persons and property of American
citizens, maintaining the dignity and pow-
er of the Government, and promoting the
commerce and business interests of our
countrymen in every part of the world.
Of two hundred and thirty-eight vessels
composing the present Navy of the United
States, 56 carrying 507 guns, are in
squadron service. During the year the
number of vessels in commission has been
reduced twelve, and there are thirteen less
on squadron duty than there were at the
date of the last report. A large number
of vessels were commenced and in course
of construction when the war terminated,
and although Congress has made the nec-
essary appropriations for their completion,
the Department has either suspended work
upon them or limited the slow com-
pletion of them, so as to meet the
contracts for machinery made with private
establishments. The total expenditures of
the Navy Department for the fiscal year
ending June 30, 1897, were \$31,034,011.
No appropriations have been made or re-
quired since the close of the war, for the
construction and repair of vessels, and for
steam machinery, ordnance, provisions
and clothing, fuel, hemp, &c. the balance
under these several heads having been
more than sufficient for current expendi-
tures. It should also be stated to the
credit of the Department, that besides
making no appropriations for the above
objects for the last two years, the Secre-
tary of the Navy, on the 30th of September
last, in accordance with the act of May
1st, 1890, requested the Secretary of the
Treasury to carry to the surplus fund the
sum of \$65,000,000, being the amount re-
ceived from sales of vessels and other war

The Indiana American.

"THE UNION, THE CONSTITUTION, AND THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAWS."

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[WHOLE NO. 312]

THE WEST INDIES.

The West India Islands were settled

and colonized by European States simul-

taneously with the settlement and coloni-

zation of the American continent. Most

of the colonies planted here became inde-

pendent nations in the close of the last

and the beginning of the present century.

Our own country embraces communities which

at one period were colonies of Great Britain,

France, Spain, Holland, Sweden and Russia.

The people in the West Indies, with the ex-

ception of those of the Island of Hayti, have

never attained nor aspired to Independ-

ence, nor have they been prepared for self-

defense. Although possessing considerable

commercial value, they have been held by

the United States for the purpose of being

colonized, or, at some time, con-

quered them, chiefly for purposes of mili-

tary and naval strategy. In carrying out

European policy and designs in regard to

this continent, in our Revolutionary war,

the ports and harbors in the West India

Islands were used by our enemy, to the

great injury and embarrassment of the

United States. We had the same experi-

ence in our second war with Great Britain.

The same European policy for a long time

excluded us even from trade with the

West Indies. While we were at peace with

all nations, in our recent civil war

the rebels and their allies and blockade-

breaking allies found facilities in the same

ports for the work, which they too suc-

cessfully accomplished, of injuring and

devastating the commerce which we are

now engaged in rebuilding. We labored

especially under this disadvantage, that

European steam vessels employed by our

enemies found friendly shelter, protection,

and supplies in West Indian ports, while

Man Considered Scientifically.

I met, to-day, with the following: pas-

sage in one of South's sermons: "An Ari-

stotle was but the rubbish of an Adam

and Athens but the rudiments of Pa-

radise." This is a pretty rhetorical way of

putting a utterly groundless fancy which

has possessed the mind of man for ages,

and which is the foundation, not of Chris-

tianity, but of the Jewish and Christian

religions. Bred in the strictest orthodox

faith and having to this day never read

a free thinking book, I can not help seeing

that if Adam is to be taken as a representa-

tive of primitive man, and Paradise as the

name of man's primitive habitation, the

movement from Adam to Athens, from

Paradise to Athens, was not a downward,

but a slowly and painfully upward.

All the significant facts in the history of

every race shows that it improved from

the very time of its first appearance, al-

though in some cases very slightly, or

fitfully, and in others only up to a certain

point; and, consequently, that mankind

has made progress from the beginning. The

Dark Ages were an eclipse of the civiliza-

tion of Rome and Greece; but they were

the darkness before the dawn of day upon

the wider horizon, within which were all

the higher races of the earth. Human nature

has not always been the same. Its essence

is the same, but it has grown with the

pace of time, and has been developed by

self-culture. Of the race, as a whole, the

intellectual capacity has increased, and the

moral sense becomes finer as the world

grows older. The amelioration of human

society is due less to the conviction or

conversion of individuals than to this de-

velopment of human nature. The signs of

this development appear first in indi-

Christmas—Its History.

Christmas Day is regarded throughout

the Christian world as the important day

of the year, and whether the birth of

Christ occurred on the twenty-fifth day of

December, or a few days earlier or later,

is a matter of no great moment. The sig-

nificance of setting apart a day consists in

the fact that all Christians, by general

consent, accept a specified time for the

celebration of this event.

In pagan Rome there was a yearly cele-

bration called the Saturnalia, or Festival

of Saturn, which was marked by the pre-

valence of a universal license and merr-

ymaking. The slaves were then permitted

to enjoy a period of freedom in speech

and behavior; every one feasted and re-

joiced; work and business were entirely

suspended; houses were decorated with

laurels and evergreens; presents were

made by parents and friends, and all sorts

of games and amusements were indulged

in by the citizens. In the early ages of

Christianity, its ministers frequently ex-

perienced difficulty in inducing the con-

verts to refrain from indulging in the

popular amusements which were so largely

participated in by their pagan neighbors.

At last convinced, partly by the inefficacy

of denunciations, and partly influenced

by the idea that the spirit of Christianity

might thereby be advanced, the Church

endeavored to amalgamate, as it were, the

old and new religions, and sought, by

transferring the heathen ceremonies to

the solemnities of the Christian festivals,

to make them subservient to the cause of

religious piety. Engrafted thus on the

Roman Saturnalia, Christmas festivities

received in England further changes and

modifications by having superadded to

be it little or much, toward bettering

the condition of those around and among;

and it will be to all, what we wish it may

be, dear reader, to you and yours. A HAPPY

CHRISTMAS.—[Phrenological Journal.]

Inside a Printing Office.

It is not alone composers who will en-

joy the following. It is a capital and

very forcible illustration of a printing of

free dialogue.

Foreman of the office.—"Jones, what

are you at now?"

Compositor.—"I'm setting 'A House on

Fire,' almost done."

Foreman.—"What is Smith about?"

Compositor.—"He's engaged on 'A

Horrid Murder.'"

Foreman.—"Finish it as quickly as

possible, and help More through with his

'Telegraph.' Bob what are you trying to

get up?"

Bob.—"A Panic in the Money Mar-

ket."

Foreman.—"Thomas, what are you dis-

tributing?"

Thomas.—"Prizes in the Lottery."

Foreman.—"Stop that and take hold of

'A Runaway Horse.' Slocum, what in

creation have you been about this last half

hour?"

Slocum.—"Justifying the 'Compromise

Measure' my sub set up."

Foreman.—"You, chap on the stool

there, what are you on now?"

Chap on the stool.—"On the 'Table' that

you gave me."

Foreman.—"Lay it on the table for the

present, no room for it."

Compositor.—"How about these 'Muni-

cipal Candidates'?"

Foreman.—"Run 'em in. What do you

say, Slocum?"

Slocum.—"Shall I lead these Men of

Boston?"

Foreman.—"No; they are solid, of

course."

Compositor.—"Do you want a full-faced

head to 'Jenny Lind's Family'?"

Foreman.—"No; put in small cap.

Joseph, lay it you got up that 'Capital

idea'?"

Joseph.—"No sir, I'm out of sorts."

Foreman.—"Well throw in this 'Mil-

lion of California Gold,' and when you

get through with it I'll give you some

more."

Editor.—"What do you want now?"

Devil.—"More copy sir."

Editor.—"Have you completed that

'Eloquent Thanksgiving Discourse'?"

Devil.—"Yes, sir, and I have just

set up 'A Warm Winter.'"

A Mother's Voice.

Since the prevailing Indian troubles

commenced, an Indian camp was captured,

together with a number of prisoners, in-

cluding squaws, and some half dozen white

captives, boys and girls, from five to

twelve years of age. Word was sent throu-

out the country, inviting those who had

lost children to come to the camp and

identify, if possible, their children, as

none of them could give any account of

their parents were, or where they were

taken from, so young were they when they

were taken captives by the Indians.

Numbers went to the camp—many more

than there were children—and of course

many of them returned with heavy hearts

at being unable to find their lost ones.

Among the number who went hundreds

of miles to the camp, was a mother who

lost two children—a boy and a girl, one

three and the other five years old—years

ago. Efforts were made to persuade her

not to go, and so long a time had elapsed,

it was certain she could not identify her

children, even if they stood before her.

But she could not rest; she must go, and

go she did. On arriving at the camp, she

found the captives ranged in line for in-

spection. She looked at them first from

a distance, her anxious heart

bounded in her bosom. But she did not

see her children; at least she saw nothing

in the group that bore the slightest re-

semblance to her baby boy and girl as they

looked when playing about her door step.

She drew nearer, and peered deep into the

eyes of each, who only returned her look

with a stony gaze yet anxious ones—they

too hoping to see something in her that

would tell them she was their mother.

She looked long and steadily at them, as

her heart began to sink and grow heavy

in her bosom. At last with a sigh and

sobs, she withdrew, and when some paces

off she stopped and turned about quickly,